Selection of NGOs for grant-in-aid

872. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for surrendering the right to select NGOs for grant-in-aid scheme to the State Governments; and

(b) whether NGOs have willingly accepted this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) (a) and (b) In the past, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment received the applications of the NGOs from the State Governments with their recommendations. This procedure has not changed.

Procedure for examining the proposals of NGOs in the Ministry too has not changed. However, the procedure for sanction of grant-in-aid to NGOs has been streamlined from current financial year. This was necessitated because recommendation of the State Governments for NGOs were being received in a piecemeal manner. In several cases, they got delayed resulting in late release of funds to NGOs. The old procedure had also created varying asymmetry in the fund flow to various States.

The streamlining would result in submission of recommendations for NGOs by the State Governments in a consolidated manner by a definite time limit.

Outreach activities of institutes for disabled

873. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Institute of Hearing Handicapped and the National Institute for Mentally Handicapped are reducing their outreach activities and only concentrating on academic matters;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have directed the NIHH and the NIMH not to serve and help in tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details of the directives given by Government in this regard;

(d) the steps taken to amend such policies and directives, to give flexibility to the famous institutions; and

(e) the steps proposed to help the weaker sections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Proposals for developmental schemes for Andhra Pradesh

874. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details and status of the proposals of Andhra Pradesh Government received during the last year and till date in the current year;